

TURNING PAGE  
34. (Currently Amended) A guide element of a web processing machine comprising: <sup>AND INCLUDING AN INNER SURFACE</sup>

<sup>HOLLOW</sup> [[A)] a rigid load bearing support having a support length and a full circumferential

<sup>OUTER SURFACE</sup> surface extending over at least a portion of said support length, said support including a fluid-

<sup>PERMEABLE</sup> permeable support material, said fluid permeable support material having ~~an~~ a circumferential

<sup>HOLLOW</sup> outer support surface, said outer support surface of said fluid permeable support material being

provided with a plurality of fluid openings in said fluid permeable support material and extending

over said full circumferential surface in said at least a portion of said support length of said rigid

load bearing support circumferential surface; <sup>BETWEEN SAID INNER SURFACE OR SAID HOLLOW SURFACE AND SAID OUTER SURFACE, THIS RIGID SUPPORT</sup>

<sup>APPLYING A FLUID UNDER PRESSURE</sup> [[A)] a coating of a micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material

<sup>APPLYING IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH SURFACE</sup> covering said fluid permeable support material on portion of said full circumferential outer

<sup>HOLLOW</sup> support surface of said rigid, load bearing support; <sup>APPLYING SURFACE</sup>

a plurality of micro-openings in said coating of said micro-porous, air

permeable open-pored sinter material, said plurality of micro-openings being open pores formed

in said coating of said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material, said plurality

of micro-openings being sized to allow emergence of a fluid under pressure from said plurality of

fluid openings in said fluid-permeable support material over in said at least a portion of said full

circumferential surface of said at least a portion of said support length one longitudinal section

of said guide element, said fluid under pressure emerging and through said coating of said

micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material as a fluid cushion; and

means supporting said guide element adapted to be positioned in a selected one

of at least first and second angular positions in respect to a direction of travel of a web being

guided by said guide element, said fluid under pressure emerging from said plurality of micro-

openings of said fluid permeable open-pored sinter material over said full circumferential

surface of said at least a portion of said support length of said rigid load bearing support in each

of said first and second angular positions of said guide element, said web being supported by

said fluid cushion while being guided by said guide element.